GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:274
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Sasthamcotta Lake
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to check shrinking of sasthamcotta lake in Kerala State due to large scale pollution and receding water table;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an expert committee has been constituted to study the environmental impact on the lake which is a designated wetland under Ramsar convention; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the objectives of the said committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b) Sasthamkotta, a Ramsar site in Kerala, is one of the identified wetlands for conservation and management under the scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA). Being a Ramsar site, this wetland has also been notified under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. So far, an amount of Rs. 53.08 lakhs has been released to the Government of Kerala for various conservation activities like catchment treatment, conservation of flora and fauna, pollution control measures, scientific management of wetland fisheries, social interventions, monitoring and evaluation, etc. Also, in order to conserve lakes and wetlands in an integrated manner, all the States, including Kerala, have been advised for giving high priority for constitution of State Wetland/ Lake Authorities, identification and notification of wetlands, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening research-management interface, etc.

The Government of Kerala has also set up the State Wetland Authority in November, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Environment, Government of Kerala for conservation and management of all wetlands and lakes in the State in a holistic and integrated manner. Sasthamkotta lake and its catchment area has been declared as protected area and all the illegal activities like sand mining, discharge of effluents from houses and hotels, bathing and washing clothes, wetting of coconut leaves, disposal of plastic waste, debris of animals, fishing and agricultural practices using pesticides and chemical fertilizers, etc causing pollution in and around lake have been banned vide order no. M6-35904/07 dated 25.04.2017 issued by the Government of Kerala.

(c) & (d) No Expert Committee has been constituted to study the environmental impact on Sasthamkotta lake.
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